

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

F1 12 ~~49~~ (Twice Amended) The method according to any one of claims ~~41-43~~^{7, 9, 10} or 45 wherein said region of the target gene is 20 to 30 nucleotides long.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 49 to replace the term "A" with the term "The". Applicants have also canceled claims 52-53 and 57-58 without prejudice in an effort to expedite the allowance of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application. No new matter is introduced by way of the instant amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the instant amendment. The attached is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank S. DiGiglio
Registration No. 31,346

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
Telephone: 516-742-4343

FSD/XZ:ab
Encls.: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 52-53 and 58-59 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 49 as follows:

49. (Twice Amended) [A] The method according to any one of claims 41-43 or 45 wherein said region of the target gene is 20 to 30 nucleotides long.